

## ***EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES FOR CHILDREN (EMSC)***

### **NATIONAL EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES FOR CHILDREN – MISSION STATEMENT**

*The Emergency Medical Services for Children program is designed to reduce the child and youth mortality and morbidity sustained due to severe illness or trauma. It aims to ensure state of the art emergency medical care for the ill or injured child and adolescent: to ensure that pediatric services are well integrated into an emergency medical services (EMS) system backed by optimal resources; and to ensure that the entire spectrum of emergency services, including primary prevention of illness and injury, acute care, and rehabilitation, is provided to children and adolescents as well as adults.*

### ***WHAT IS THE ALASKA EMSC PROGRAM?***

The Alaska EMSC program is designed to enhance the pediatric capabilities of the current system originally designed for adults. Alaska first became a grantee with the EMSC program in the early 1990's. We have had several grants since that time and EMSC has maintained a strong presence in Alaska.

The program resides in the Section of Community Health and EMS, Division of Public Health, Department of Health and Social Services. Funding for this program comes from federal grants from the Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resource Services Administration, Maternal Child Health Bureau, Emergency Medical Services for Children.

### ***WHAT ARE THE GOALS OF THE ALASKA EMSC PROGRAM?***

The initial goal of the EMSC program is to prevent childhood illness or injury. When prevention fails, the goal is to ensure that all ill or injured children and adolescents receive state-of-the-art emergency medical care from emergency medical technicians (EMTs) and paramedics, emergency department personnel, and rehabilitation specialists, if needed.

Therefore, the Alaska EMSC program is quite broad and involves the entire spectrum of emergency services.

One of our goals is to improve the availability of pediatric equipment for EMS agencies, community health aide clinics, rural clinics and hospitals throughout the state.

Another major goal is to improve the pediatric training that is available in the state at every level, to include personnel working in pre-hospital, emergency departments, rural hospitals and clinics, and school nurses.

We also hope to educate children and youth in injury prevention and basic trauma care.

## ***WHAT HAS THE ALASKA EMSC PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHED?***

- 19 injury prevention projects;
- a two-day "Pediatric Pre-hospital Care" instructor course;
- a two-day Pediatric EMS Symposium;
- an EMT continuing education course delivered to rural communities;
- a three-day "Emergency Care Training for School Nurses" presented to public school nurses;
- three-to-six day "hands-on" preceptorship programs provided to pre-hospital EMS personnel;
- development and distribution of the *Alaska Medevac Manual*, currently in its 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition;
- purchase and distribution of pediatric equipment to volunteer EMS first responder and ambulance services;
- various pediatric instructions to hospital personnel in rural hospitals;
- EMSC Five-Year Strategic Plan
- EMSC Needs Assessment
- EMSC Pediatric Training Plan for health care providers at all levels; and
- formation of Suicide Prevention Task Force to profile youth at risk of suicide; establishment of emergency department procedures and protocols for the identification, screening and referral of youth at risk for suicide; and "Gatekeeper" training designed to train people from local communities to recognize the warning signs of potential suicide and to respond appropriately to those warning signs.

## ***WHAT IS THE FUTURE OF THE ALASKA EMSC PROGRAM?***

Currently we have two EMSC grants, EMSC State Partnership grant – *"Improving EMS for Children in Alaska"* and a special grant called *"Improve EMS Capabilities for Alaska Native Children."* Through these two programs we will be able to improve care for Alaskan children across the EMSC continuum of care, from prevention to rehabilitation.

### ***"Improving EMS for Children in Alaska"***

#### **Activities**

##### **Year 1:**

1. Expand pediatric technical assistance teams (TAT) to include Southern, Interior and Southeast EMS Regions;
2. Enhance pediatric emergency medical training for pre-hospital providers;
3. Improve EMS data collection; and
4. Focus on EMSC during EMS week in May 2000.

##### **Year 2:**

1. Continue the deployment of the pediatric technical assistance teams to additional volunteer services;

2. Expand the pre-hospital data collection capabilities to additional communities;
3. Update and revise the Alaska Trauma, Triage, Transport, and Transfer Guidelines;
4. Continue to subsidize pediatric presentations at the state and regional EMS symposia;
5. Update and revise the Alaska Medevac course; and
6. Maintain the EMSC Task Force as an active voice in enhancing the pediatric EMS capabilities in the state.

### **Year 3:**

1. Continue the expansion of the pre-hospital data collection system;
2. Deploy the pediatric TATs;
3. Subsidize pediatric presentations at the state and regional EMS symposia;
4. Subsidize pediatric emergency medical care training focusing on emergency department nurses;
5. Update and revise the pediatric section of the Alaska Rehabilitation Guide; and
6. Continue the momentum of the EMSC Task Force.

### ***“Improve EMS Capabilities for Alaska Native Children”***

#### **Activities:**

#### **Six Program Components:**

##### ***Component 1: Training***

1. Identify statewide training needs and develop a training plan for clinical emergency care providers.
2. Increase the availability of EMSC-specific training for clinical emergency medical personnel.
3. Increase the number of Emergency Trauma Technician (first responder) courses taught in rural high schools.
4. Improve the transition from hospital to community-based care for Alaska Native children returned to small communities.

##### ***Component 2: Telemedicine and Telehealth***

1. Ensure attention to the needs of children and EMSC services in statewide planning to enhance telemedicine capabilities; identify elements in the plan that specifically relate to EMSC; and assess potential for telemedicine applications for EMSC.
2. Test and improve the availability of distance delivery of EMS education.
3. Improve post-discharge care of children where live video consultation may facilitate wound care, proper device use or care, or rehabilitation follow-up.

### ***Component 3: Pediatric Equipment***

1. Identify baseline EMSC equipment deficiencies in rural Alaskan hospitals and clinics.
2. Purchase and distribute additional essential EMSC equipment to rural hospitals and clinics in need.
3. Increase point-of-care laboratory testing capabilities.

### ***Component 4: Injury and Suicide Prevention***

1. Increase prevention strategies which target leading causes of unintended injury related morbidity and mortality among Alaska Native children who experience disproportionate rates of unintentional injuries.
2. Reduce the incidence of suicide among Alaskan youth under 19 years of age through suicide prevention interventions. Special attention will be focused on reducing rates of suicide among Alaska Native children and other groups who experience disproportionate numbers of suicide.
3. Develop EMSC injury and illness educational materials.
4. Develop a specialized team to travel quickly to Native communities following a significant injury or illness to provide prevention assessments and information.

### ***Component 5: Data Collection***

1. Improve injury data collection capabilities.
2. Improve emergency medical services data collection.

### ***Component 6: Public Awareness***

1. Enhance Alaska EMSC web page.

## ***HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?***

There are several ways you can get involved:

- Participate in pediatric training offered throughout the state;
- Become an advocate for EMSC;
- Contact your EMS Regional office or state EMS office for more information.

## ***NEED MORE INFORMATION?***

- Join the Alaska EMSC list serve by sending an e-mail message to:  
[list.manager@list.state.ak.us](mailto:list.manager@list.state.ak.us)

The body of the message should be:

**Subscribe ak-emsc**

We will be using this service to distribute informational updates and hope that people who have subscribed to the list also will use it as a forum for sharing information on best practices, local EMSC activities, and other issues likely to be interesting to others on the list.

- Contact Doreen Risley, Alaska EMSC Program Coordinator at 465-8633.
- Contact your EMS Regional Office:
  - ◆ Southern Region EMS Council, Inc.: 562-6449
  - ◆ Interior Region EMS Council, Inc.: 456-3978
  - ◆ Southeast Region EMS Council, Inc.: 747-8005
  - ◆ Norton Sound Health Corporation: 443-3311 Ext. 3306
  - ◆ North Slope Borough Region: 852-0234
  - ◆ Manillaq Association: 442-7695
  - ◆ Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corporation: 543-6081